

Municipal Stormwater Program and Permit Evolution:

Lessons Learned and Action Priorities

Dave Smith

(Ex) Manager, NPDES Permits Section

EPA Region 9



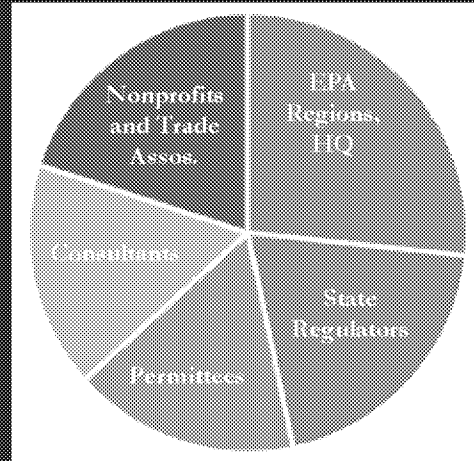
EPA
REGION 9

Gather The Experts!

- EPA and San Francisco Bay RWQCB cohosted 2 two-day workshops in Fall 2017 and Spring 2018
- *Why more meetings?*
 - Learned A LOT in 30 years of MS4 implementation
 - Have we evolved as much as we should?
 - Have we learned from our successes/mistakes?
 - Wanted a diverse group to review progress, discuss barriers to improvement, and ID solutions
 - Need to work across regions, states, and organizations!

Workshop 1: Improving Stormwater Permitting and Program Implementation Approaches

- 29 MS4 experts from across U.S.
(lotsa CA representation)
- 2 days of intensive dialog and debate
- “Conversation starters”
- Pre-workshop work
 - “hypotheses”
 - surveys to pretest attitudes



Workshop Sessions

1. Learning from Program Evolution Over Time
2. Building Program Capacity
3. Building Multi-Objective Vision
4. Public Education, Outreach, and Involvement
5. Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination
6. Industrial/Commercial Program Requirements
7. Municipal Operations and Maintenance Programs
8. New/Redevelopment and Post-Construction Requirements
9. Water-Quality-Based and TMDL-Based Requirements
10. Alternative Approaches to Achieving Water-Quality-Based Requirements



Developed Findings and Recommendations

- Cross-cutting Needs for Capacity Building/Program Support
- Cross Cutting Permitting Needs
- Improve Minimum Measure Approaches
- Streamline Post-Construction Controls
- Clarify/Strengthen Water Quality-Based Approaches

GET THE REPORT!

Available here: <http://nationalstormwateralliance.org>

http://nationalstormwateralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Evolution-of-Stormwater-Permitting-Approaches-and-Program-Implementation_Final-Report_5-17-18.pdf

A Basis for Action

- Already implementing some recommendations:
 - National Municipal Stormwater Funding Training Course (Early 2019)
 - SW Asset Management Training (Winter 2019)
 - Stormwater Program Development Handbook (late 2019)
- What More Should Be Done?

“If you don’t ask, you don’t get”

**Workshop 2: MS4 Monitoring, Evaluation, Tracking, and Reporting:
Learning from Experience to Improve Local Capacity and Permitting
Approaches**

- Subject of March 2018 Workshop....
- And our next panel, same place, at 11:00 AM

Please join us!

Hypotheses: Developing Viable Stormwater Program Capacity

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	TOTAL	Strongly Agree or Agree	Strongly Disagree or Disagree
Many stormwater programs lack sufficient funding and program implementation capacity.	24	5	0	0	0	29	83%	17%
The entire MS4 program would benefit from having EPA and States provide stronger technical/managerial/financial guidance, assistance, model ordinances/materials and oversight to support successful local MS4 program development.	22	50	3	3	2	29	76%	24%
To be fully effective, local stormwater programs need to invest in sound long-term planning incorporating asset management and funding plans.	22	7	0	0	0	29	83%	17%
Permits should be written to better assist and incentivize development of necessary local program capacity.	13	8	4	3	1	29	72%	28%
Substantial changes in requirements from permit to permit impedes development of viable programs.	3	7	0	8	0	29	52%	48%
Community financial capability and financing efforts should be considered in establishing permit implementation timeframes.	13	12	3	2	1	29	79%	21%
There should be a national initiative to promote the implementation of stormwater utilities.	12	9	6	1	1	29	72%	28%

Cross-Cutting Permitting Recommendations

- **Clarify MS4 Permitting Requirements and Expectations.** Revise national permitting regulations and/or policy guidance to clarify and standardize permitting expectations in each of the basic program areas covered by MS4 permits for increased focus on the most effective stormwater control strategies and practices.
- **Consolidate Phase I and II Requirements.** Eliminate the program categories of “Phase I” and “Phase II” in order to clarify that minimum program requirements apply to all MS4s, and to encourage improved collaboration between them.
- **Provide Flexibility in MCM Requirements.** Clarify that permitting authorities have the flexibility to adjust MCM (minimum control measure) requirements to increase focus on measures that yield tangible benefits and reduce emphasis on those that yield little ongoing benefit.
- **Explore Options to Provide Longer Planning Timeframes for Permittees.** Develop a compendium of compliance schedules in MS4 permits, including information about how they were calculated and applied.

And there's more!